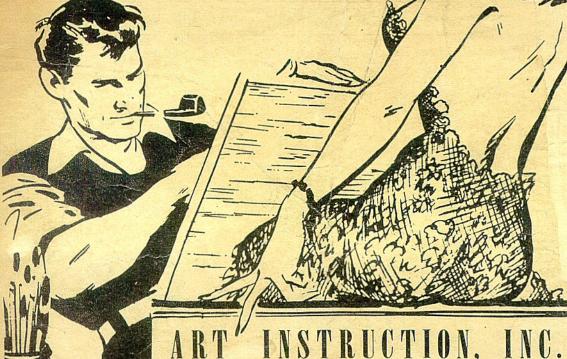




Vou are in cemand

if you can draw!

Make Money with your brush and pen! If you like to draw, sketch, or paint, take the famous Talent Test. No fee. No obligation. Mail this coupon TODAY!



500 S. 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minnesota

• Please send me your Talent Test (no fee).

Name_____Age____

City Zone County

Occupation

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WELTTLE WISE GUYS

in "THE TIGHTWAD"

B...O...Y...

BOY! NOW YOU SPELL IT AFTER

ME, READY?...

10

CUT OUT AND SAVE



SEE VALUABLE TRADING CARD OFFER FOLLOWING THIS STORY, SEND THIS WITH YOUR ORDER BLANK. 2 COUPONS PLUS 104 WILL ENTITLE YOU TO ONE SET OF TRADING CARDS.

WE'RE DOING THE
BEST WE CAN, MR.
SNODGRASS, BUT WITHOUT
MONEY FOR PENCILS
AND PAPERS AND BOOKS,
THE STUDENTS CAN'T
LEARN NEARLY AS FAST!
COULDN'T YOU LET US
HAVE A LITTLE
MONEY?

YOU

CHARLES BIRO

NOT A PENNY!
YOU TALKED ME
INTO GIVING YOU
THIS LAND TO BUILD
THAT'S ALL ALL I'LL
DO FOR YOU! ANYHOW, I NEVER
WENT TO
SCHOOL!

NO ONE CAN DENY THAT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAITS IN A PERSON'S CHARACTER IS BEING THRIFTY! IT WAS MAINLY THE THRIFT AND COURAGE OF OUR FOREFATHERS THAT MADE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY POSSIBLE, BUT LIKE TOO MUCH OF ANY GOOD THING, THRIFT LOSES ITS VALUE AND PURPOSE IF

PRACTICED TO EXCESS-LIKE CURLY'S UNCLE, FOR INSTANCE, WHO WAS NOT ONLY PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH AND MISERLY, BUT WANTED TO TEACH HIS TIGHTWADISH WAYS TO THE LITTLE WISE GUYS!

Charle Biro





THESE ARE BUS AND STREETCAR TRANSFERS









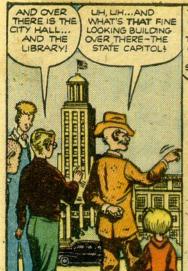


NO SUCH THING! I DON'T NEED FAVORS FROM NO ONE! I TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! NEVER ONCE SPENT A NIGHT IN A HOTEL ON THE WHOLE TRIP, EITHER! SAYED DOLLARS A NIGHT THAT WAY! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME! I'LL SLEEP RIGHT HERE!





DAREDEVIL



THAT BAH! WHAT A WASTE OF THE GOSH, TAXPAYER'S MONEY! I DIDN'T NO! NEED NO SCHOOL LEARNIN' TO THAT'S HELP ME GET AHEAD! HOW MANY FOLKS WITH SCHOOLIN' CAN SAY THEY GOT \$500,000 IN THE BANK LIKE I HAVE! OUR HIGH SCHOOL



THERE IT IS ... RIGHT DOWN IN BLACK AND WHITE! AND IF MY OIL WELLS KEEP PRODUCING 'LL BE WORTH A COOL MILLION ONE OF THESE DAYS! I MIGHT EVEN LEAVE SOMETHIN' TO YOU

OH, FINE! UH ... THINK I NEED TO SIT DOWN A WHILE TO SURPRISE! LETS GO AND HAVE SOME LUNCH!







HOLD ON! IF YOU'RE

I'LL TUNE

UP THE STA

I'M HEADING HOME I'WISH I COULD TOMORROW, CURLY! SEE YOUR OIL WELLS IN OPERA VISIT BUT YOU SEEM TION, UNCLE TO BE MAKING OUT AL SNODGRASS! IF RIGHT! NO REASON MY FRIENDS AND FOR ME TO TAKE ON THE EXTRA COULD VISIT WE'D BE GLAD EXPENSE! TO WORK OUR WAY SO WE WON'T BE A

















HAVE TO GO RIGHT TO YOUR PLACE ANYHOW, MR. SNODGRASS I HAVE TO DE YOUR HOUSE!

RIDE AFTER BOARD BOYS!

IN THAT

CASE, I'VE

NO OBJEC

THIS IS YOUR UNCLES HOUSE? IT MAKES OUR BARN LOOK LIKE HERE WE ARE, BOYS, LAST STOP A PALACE!



YOU CAN START WORK AT EIGHT TOMORROW MORNING CLEANING DRILL PIPES! MY FOREMAN, LANK JONES WILL SHOW YOU THE ROPES! AND WHILE YOU'RE LIVING WITH ME, DON'T FORGET TO PUT OUT ALL THE LIGHTS AS SOON AS THE DISHES ARE WASHED! CAN'T WASTE ELECTRI-CITY SITTING AROUND



UNCLE, I DON'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS BUT WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE SO STINGY WITH YOUR MONEY? YOU'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH!

WHEN I WAS POOR NOBODY HELPED ME SO I LEARNED EARLY NEVER TO GIVE ANY ONE ANYTHING FOR NOTHING! MONEY AND EVERY DOLLAR I PUT IN THE BANK IS A PRESENT TO ME!



IT'S NOT THAT I OBJECT TO WORK ING...I LIKE TO WORK HARD ... BUT FOR TWO WEEKS ALL WE'VE DONE IS WORK! THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF RECREA TION AROUND

THE NEAREST TOWN WITH A MOVIE IS OVER TWENTY MILES OFF AND WITH-OUT A CAR, THE WALK!



DAREDEVIL



SCHOOL? THERE ISN'T A SCHOOL IN ALL OF SUGAR CANE GOUNTY! ANY SCHOOLIN' THE KIDS AROUND HERE EVER GIT IS FROM THEIR OWN FOLKS! MR. SNODGRASS IS AGAINST SPENDING MONEY FOR SCHOOLS, AND THE COUNTY OFFICIALS DO WHAT







IS IT
REALLY
TRUE
THAT YOU
HAVENIT
ANY
SCHOOL;
HERE IN
THIS
COUNTY!

VEP! WHAT FER
DO WE NIEDD A
SCHOOL;
MY
MAW TAUGHT
ME MY
LESSONS!





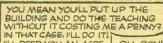
BOY, IF THIS IS A SAMPLE OF WHAT THE OTHER KIDS AROUND HERE ARE LIKE I THINK SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO HELP THEM! WHAT DO YOU SAY WE HAVE OUR OWN SCHOOL AND TEACH THEM! WILL GIVE US SOMETHING



PILL BET THERE'S ONE THING
YOU FELLERS KNOW, AND THAT'S
HOW TO USE A HAMMER
AND NAILS! IF WE GET THE LUMBER, WOULD YOU AND THE
OTHER KIDS AROUND HERE
HELP US BUILD A SCHOOL!







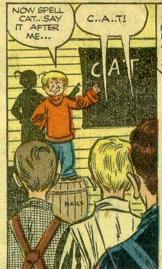
I'LL DEED YOU AN ACRE WAY DOWN ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MY LAND!

OH, BOY! THAT'S SWELL! WELL START WORK













THAT'S NEXT
TO IMPOSSIBLEBUT SAY! YOU
OWN THAT
ACRE THE SCHOOL
IS ON, DON'T
YOU?

I'M SURE ALL THE
LAND AROUND HERE
HAS SOME OIL UNDER
IT! WHAT IF YOU
WERE TO DRILL AND
HIT EVEN A SMALL
GUSHER! IT WOULD

MORE THAN GIVE
YOU WHAT
YOU NEED!

THAT'S JUST
GREAT BUT
HOW COULD
WE AFFORD
THE RIG TO
DRILL 2
WELL?
THAT'S EASY! I COULD SNEAK
OUR PORTABLE DRILL OVER
THERE EVERY NIGHT AFTER MR.
SNODGRASS IS ASLEEP! WE COULD
MOVE THE SHED ASIDE... DRILL
RIGHT UNDER THE SCHOOL A
COUPLE OF HOURS EACH NIGHT!
THEN REPLACE THE BUILDING ON
TOP AND NO ONE WOULD BE
THE WISER!











OH, THAT! THAT'S NONE OF MY DOIN! THESE YOUNG FELLOWS OVER HERE ARE BEHIND THAT! AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED PROBLEM!

HE OWNS

OH ... I SEE! VERY INTERESTING YOUNG LADS! NO LIKE TO CHAT WITH THEM A WHILE! HOW ARE YOU MAKING



TT'S A GREAT THING YOU'RE DOING, BOYS! SUGAR CANE COUNTY SHOULD HAVE HAD A SCHOOL YEARS AGO, BUT MR. SNODGRASS ALWAYS BLOCKED ANY MOVE FOR ONE!

I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY, SIR! MAYBE YOU COULD HELP US SUPPLIES!





MAYBE NOT! I'VE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING! FOR TWENTY YEARS NOW SNODGRASS HAS BEEN DEPOSITING HIS MONEY IN MY BANK! ALL THAT TIME IVE KEPT A RECORD OF THE INTEREST ON HIS MONEY IN A SEPERATE ACCOUNT! AS FAR AS KNOW SNODGRASS DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE HE'S WORTH \$115,000 MORE THAN THE PRINCIPAL HE'S DEPOSITED!

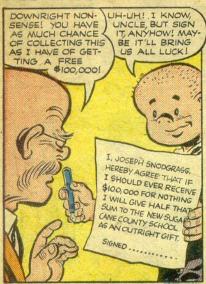


WHAT IF YOU WERE TO ASK SNOD-GRASS IF HE'D BE WILLING TO GIVE YOU HALF OF \$100,000 IF SOME-WHERE OUT OF THE CLEAR SKY HE WERE TO SUDDENLY RECEIVE THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY? YOU COULD GET THAT'S HIM TO AGREE ... AND GREAT IDEA! PUT IT IN WRITING ... AND WHAT A JOKE ON UNCLE! BREAK THE NEWS HIS OWN INTEREST NTEREST





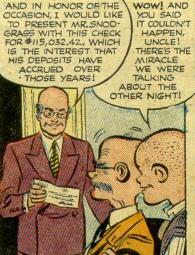












PRESENT? YOU CALL SOMEBODY DID GIVE THIS A PRESENT? YOU A PRESENT FOOL DO YOU TAKE \$100,000 ME TO BE? MY MONEY EARNED THIS INTEREST FOR NOTHIN', AND FURTHERMORE, 50 NOW WILL YOU KEEP SHOULD BE \$115,032.62! IVE THAT KEPT TRACK OF PROMISE YOU EVERY PENNY DUE ME! MADE US?



HALL, YOU'RE A CONNIVING OLD SCHEMER! YOU PUT THE BOYS UP TO THIS TRICK TO GET MONEY FROM ME! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE PLANNING TO ABSCOND WITH THE INTERESTSO I KEPT TRACK—AND EVEN NOW YOU TRIED TO CHEAT ME OF TWENTY CENTS! I'M THROUGH WITH YOUR BANK—TOMORROW I'LL CLOSE MY ACCOUNT! GOOD NIGHT!



I NEVER SHOULD HAVE DONE IT! SHODGRAGS WAG MY BIGGEST DE-POSITOR! IF I LOSE HIS ACCOUNT, I MAY AS WELL CLOSE UP

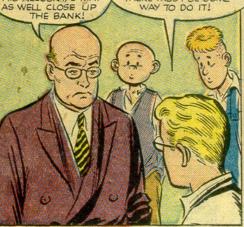
IT'S ALL OUR FAULT! MAYBE WE CAN FIGURE A WAY TO GET HIM TO CHANGE HIS MIND! IT WON'T BE EASY BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO DO IT!

WHAT! ARE

YOU CRAZY?

BRINGING ALL

THAT CASH



HOW'S THIG? IT'G A CRAZY
SCHEME, BUT IF IT WORKS IT
MAY DO MORE THAN GET HIM
BACK AS A DEPOSITOR! ITMAY
CURE HIM OF HAVING SUCH AN
INSANE LOVE OF MONEY! WE'LL
NEED A COUPLE OF OLD



WERE

LEAVING,

UNCLE



FIX UP THE STAGE MONEY WITH A REAL BILL ON EACH END, TOP AND BOTTOM THEN MR. HALL WILL CARRY ON FROM THERE! I'VE TOLD HIM



WELL, SNODGRASS, SINCE YOU DON'T LIKE MY BANK HERE'S YOUR MONEY! TAKE IT... ALL \$615,032.62 IN CASH...



YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO CLOSE THE ACCOUNT! NOW IT'S CLOSED! YOU CAN LUG THE CASH TO ANOTHER BANK...ONLY IT'S AFTER THREE NOW SO YOU'LL HAVE TO



YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME ALONE WITH ALL THIS MONEY! I FORBID IT! I NEED PROTECTION! WHAT IF SOMEONE SHOULD COME AND ROB MES

THAT'S YOU'S
PROBLEM! I GUESS
\$615,000 IN CASH
!! WOULD BE A BIG
TEMPTATION!
PRACTICALLY EVERY
ONE HEARD YOU
WERE WITHDRAWING
IT FROM THE BANK
SO I'D BECAREFUL
IF I WERE YOU!



I HAVEN'T A PHONE! WHAT IF SOMEONE TRIES TO BREAK IN THE HOUSE! I CAN'T EVEN CALL FOR HELP THEY MIGHT KILL ME TO GET THE MONEY!

THEY MAY NOT KILL YOU IF YOU GIVE THEM THE MONEY WITHOUT P! ARGUING! IM GORRY WE CAN'T STAY BUT MR. HALLS OFFERED US A RIDE TO TOWN! GOOD-BY... AND GOOD LUCK!



TEN OCLOCK!

VILL BET BY

NOW THAT

UNCLE IS AS

NERVOUS AS

A CAT!

AS ALLTHAT MONEY, OR AT LEAST WHAT HE THINKS IS MONEY, HE'LL SEE THINGS DIF-FERENTLY! HE HAS TO LEARN SOME TIME THAT MONEY IS ONLY IMPOR-TANT FOR WHAT GOOD

IT SEEMS LIKE A

MAYBE AFTER A

NIGHT ALONE WITH





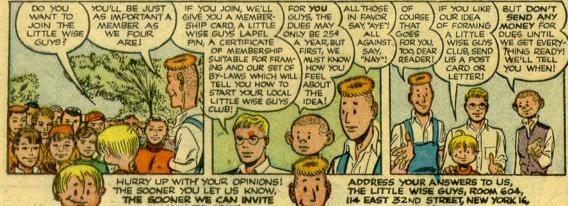






NEW YORK.



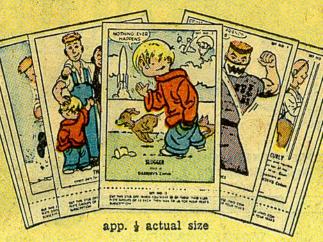


YOU TO JOIN!

E HIT OF THE YEA

GLEASON COMICS PICTURE TRADING CARDS

YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTERS ON CARDS IN FULL COLORI



QUICKI START YOUR COLLECTION NOWI

Everybody wants these cards. Decorate your room, trade them, give them to friends. Your set will be the envy of everybody you know!

HERE'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET ANY SET YOU

WANTI You will find a special trading card coupon on the top of the first page of this magazine. Until further notice these coupons will be found in all of the following Lev Gleason Comics: CRIME DOES NOT PAY. BOY, CRIME & PUNISHMENT, DAREDEVIL and BLACK DIAMOND.

Just send us TWO of these coupons, with 10¢ (no stamps, please) and we will send you any set of trading cards you want. You can pick your own sets. They are listed in the box below. And you can order as many sets as you like. Just remember to send two coupons and 10¢ for each set. There are 5 sets in all. Get all of them and have the best collection yourself!

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE COUPON YOU NEED TO GET Y O U R TRADING CARDS, YOU WILL FIND IT ON THE FIRST INSIDE PAGE OF EACH MAGA-SEND ZINE. SEND IT ORDER BLANK. 2 COUPONS PLUS 10c WILL ENTITLE YOU TO I SET OF RADING CARDS



SAMPLE COUPON

NOTE: When you send your coupons and 10¢, paste the coupons on a post card or attach them to the handy order blank at the right. You will find the coupons on the front page of any of the Lev Gleason Comics mentioned above (CRIME DOES NOT PAY, BOY, CRIME & PUNISHMENT. DAREDEVIL and DIAMOND).

Order your set by number. Be sure to print your name and address plainly and mail to:

PICTURE SET DIVISION, Lev Gleason Publications

114 E. 32nd St. New York, 16, N. Y.

This offer not valid in states where redemption of coupons is forbidden by law.

HERE ARE THE SETS

Order By Number

When you send your coupons, choose the set or sets you want. Order them by number - but each set is COMPLETE and cards in each set CANNOT be changed. Order more sets as you want more cards.

SET NO. 1 SET NO. 3 ROCKY X SLUGGER GRUESOME JONES (of the Rocketeers) IRON JAW CURLY

WISE GUYS GROUP CRIMEBUSTER AND SQUEEKS RELIAPON

SCARECROW SIMPY SMITH DILLY DUNCAN

SET NO. 5

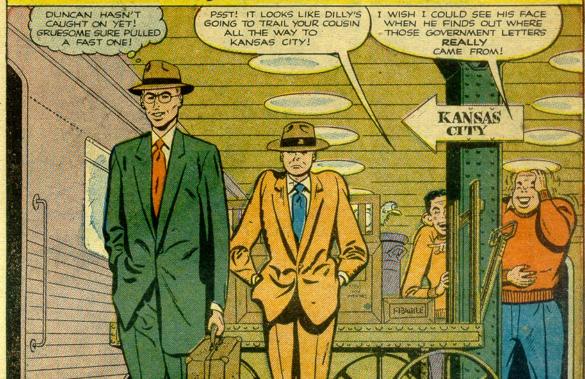
BLACK DIAMOND AND RELIAPON SQUEEKS THE VACUUM

| | . ORDER BLANK |
|---|---|
| • | PICTURE SET DIVISION, LEV GLEASON PUBLICATIONS, INC. |
| 8 | 114 E. 32nd Street, Send cash, check New York 16, N. Y. or money order. No |
| | Friends: stamps. Enclosed are trading picture coupons |
| 1 | cut from Lev Gleason Comics and |
| ı | pictures) Set No. 1 Set No. 2 Set No. 3 |
| | My name is (Please print) |
| | My address is |



DILLY DUNCAN

of Dorset High in "DILLY'S SECRET MISSION"



GRUESOMES BEEN TRYING TO THINK OF THE PERFECT WAY TO GET EVEN WITH DILLY FOR A LONG TIME NOW AND IT LOOKS AS IF HE'S FINALLY GOTTEN IT! DILLY IS FEELING PRETTY COCKY, AND IN THAT FRAME OF MIND HE'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING! MAYBE THIS TIME, THE LAST LAUGH WILL BE ON DILLY...NOT BY HIM!



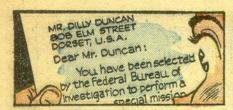
LET HIM GET AS COCKY AS HE LIKES! I'LL TAKE HIM DOWN A COUPLA NOTCHES! HE'S 50 CONCEITED NOW THAT HE'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING HE HEARS ABOUT HIMSELF, 50 LONG AS IT'S GOOD, AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY I WANT HIM!



YOU KNOW MY COUSIN, AL, FROM KANSAS CITY? WELL, HE'S VISITING US FOR A FEW DAYS! I GOT A TERRIFIC IDEA AND HE'S GONNA MAKE IT WORK OUT SWELL! I GRABBED SOME PHONIED UP SHEETS OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATIONERY AND WROTE DILLY A LETTER! NOW HERE'S



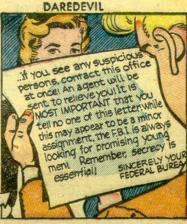
THE GOVERNMENT? GOLLY, MAYBE I'VE BEEN DRAFTED! THIS LETTER CAME FOR YOU HAVE THEY THIS MORN-TO THE FIF-ING, DILLY! OLDS NOW IT'S ON GOVERN MENT STATION ERY



GEE! ALERTHESS...INTELLIGENCE...BEST QUALIFIED!" THEY MEAN ME! LET ME SEE... HAMA... "A KNOWN JEWEL THIEF IS OPERATI ING IN THE DORSET AREA! THIS MAN IS TALL! THIN, AND WEARS GLASSES! HE WILL CON-TACT. STUDENTS, AND TRY AND SELL THEM STOLEN JEWELRY! IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT HE BE APPREHENDED!"





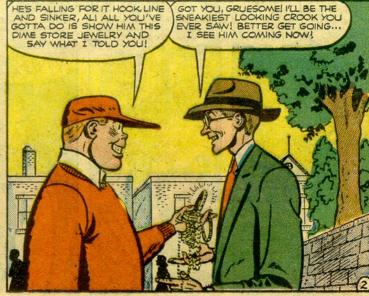




















I'LL BE HERE,

MIGHT







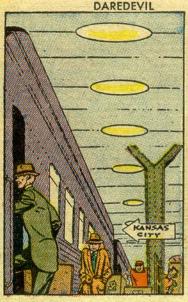






BE IT'LL









I SURE I'D SETTLE FOR WISH I SEEING THE CON-DUCTOR'S FACE COULD WHEN DILLY SEE HIS FACE TELLS HIM HE'S WHEN SPECIAL F.B.I. YOUR AGENT AND DOESN'T NEED COUSIN TO PAY FOR TELLS HIM IT WAS HIS TICKET! ALL JOKE NEWS

THAT ONE!
10 BETTER
CHECK
WITH
WESTERN
UNION
AND SEE
IF THEY
CAN DELIVER THAT
THE RIGHT
TIME!
O

THEY SURE

FELL FOR



CAN YOU HAVE THIS DELIVERED TO

SOMEONE RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL AT 8:45 TOMORROW MORNING? I'M PLAYING A JOKE ON

A FRIEND AND IT'S







DAREDEVIL



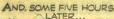


















DILLY'S COCKINESS ALMOST DID HIM IN THAT TIME BUT IT CERTAINLY TURNED OUT ALL RIGHT-FOR HIM ANYWAY! SAY, YOU'D BETTER NOT MISS NEXT MONTH, WHEN THE SCHOOL TERM CLOSES! GRUESOME IS SUPPOSED TO GRADUATE, FINALLY, AND THAT WILL BE QUITE AN EVENT! DILLY WILL CERTAINLY MISS HIS OLD FRIEND GRUESOME, OR WILL HE?

I Will Show You How to EARN RADIO-TELEVISION ICING OR COMMUNICATIONS Practicina in Spare Time





"I scepted a position as Radio and
Television Technician . . . was promoted to manager of
Television Service
and Installation."—
L. RAUGER, San
Bruno, California.

"Four years ago, a bookkeeper on a bookkeeper on a band-ta-mouth sal-ary, am now a Raddio Engineer ABC network." — N. H. WARD. Ridgefield. Park, New Jersey.



"When I enrolled, had no idea it would be so easy to learn. Have equipped my shop out of spare time earnings. I am clearing about 250 to 250 a month."







TESTED WAY TO BETTER PAY...MAIL COUPON NOW

Do you want good pay, a job with a bright future and security? Would you like a profitable shop of your own? The fast growing, prosperous RADIO-TELEVISION industry is making these opportunities for you. Radio alone is bigger than ever. 90 million home and auto Radios, 3100 Broadcasting Stations, expanding use of Aviation and Police Radio, Micro-Wave Relay, Two-Way Radio for buses, taxis, etc., are making opportunities for Servicing, and Communications Technicians and FCC-Licensed Operators.

Television is TODAY'S Good Job Maker

10 1946 only 6,600 TV sets sold. In 1950 over 5,000,000. By 1954, 25,000,000 TV sets will be in use, according to estimates. Over 100 TV Stations are operating in 35 states. Authorities predict there will be 1,000 TV Stations. This means new jobs, more jobs, good pay for qualified men.

Many Soon Make \$18 A Week Extra in Spare Time Keep your job while training at home. Hundreds I've trained are successful RADIO TELEVISION TECHNICIANS. Learn Radio-Television principles from illustrated leasons. Get PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE experience. menting with circuits common to Radio and Television. Many students make \$5, \$10 a week extra fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time. Special Booklets start teaching you the day you enroll.

Send New for 2 Books FREE - Mail Coppen Send for my FREE DOUBLE OFFER. Send for my FREE DOUBLE OFFER. Get actual Servicing lesson. Also get my 64-page book, "How to Be a Success in Radio-Television." Read what my graduates are doing, earning. Send coupon in envelope or paste on postal. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 2DM. National Radio Institute, Washington 9. D. C. OUR 38TH YEAR.

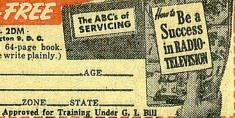
MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 2DM Mational Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C. Mail me FREE Lesson and 64-page book. (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY. Check if Veteran ZONE STATE

The ABC's of SERVICING



Similar Suitcases



The engine of the car sputtered, coughed, jerked and then stopped. "Of all the luck," thought Crimebuster as he grabbed a flashlight from the glove compartment, crawled from the driver's seat, then peered under the hood. "Wish I knew more about the insides of these contraptions," he muttered as he looked unsuccessfully in to see what the trouble was.

The early summer night was dark and Crimebuster, eager to get back to town, was discouraged. Fumbling in the dark with only the light of the flashlight he couldn't seem to find the trouble with the car. The car was old and, he thought, had probably just given up and decided to stop.

"Well, Squeeks," he said to the monkey roosting discouragedly on his shoulder, "guess we have no choice but to hitchhike." Squeeks chattered in agreement as Crimebuster walked to the side of the road hoping a car would come along soon.

Before long Crimebuster saw the lights of a car in the distance and as it approached he flagged it down. "I've had a bit of car trouble," called Crimebuster. "Could you drive me to the nearest town?"

"Whaddaya say, Checkers?" the driver addressed his companion.

"Might as well," answered Checkers.

Then the driver invited Crimebuster to climb aboard. Crimebuster grabbed his suitcase and he and Squeeks jumped into the back seat and slid the suitcase on the floor. Crimebuster tried to converse with the two men but they seemed reluctant to talk. They merely answered his questions with "yes" or "no", then relapsed into silence. By the time they approached Holcomb, the next town, all Crimebuster knew about them was that one man's name was Checkers and the other answered to Gus. Gus and Checkers drove Crimebuster to the only hotel in town. Crime-

buster, with thanks, climbed out of the car, suitcase in hand and Squeeks on his shoulder. Off drove the car and Crimebuster dismissed the two men from his mind.

When Crimebuster reached his hotel room he realized how tired he was after the long day's drive. He tossed his suitcase on the rack, tried to open it and the lock was stuck. He tried again and still it stuck. "Strange," he mused, "I know I didn't lock it." Again he tried and realized that the suitcase was locked.

Too tired to fool with it, Crimebuster hastily went to bed. Just as he was dozing off he suddenly sat bolt upright in bed thinking, "Maybe that isn't my suitcase!" He jumped up, turned on the light and once more tried to open the suitcase. The case was identical to his, medium-sized, tan, no identifying initials. Could it belong to the men who picked him up? Or was it really his own with a jammed lock? He tried the keys and they didn't work. He didn't want to force the lock if he had the wrong suitcase. Again Crimebuster went to bed, realizing the problem would take care of itself.

The next morning Crimebuster woke early, checked out of the hotel and went to the nearest garage in town. At this early hour the mechanic on duty volunteered to drive out with Crimebuster in a tow truck to look at his car. As they approached the car, the mechanic said, "Gee, Mister, from the looks of that car, I don't see how you even got this far."

"Maybe you're right," answered Crimebuster, as they rapidly approached the broken down car.

Getting out to examine it, the mechanic took one look under the hood and said, "It'll cost you two hundred bucks to have this wreck fixed. I'll give you two-fifty for it as it is."

"That's a deal," answered Crimebuster.
As they towed the car back to town, the

mechanic said, "Did you read about the bank robbery down at Millyille?"

"No," answered Crimebuster in surprise, realizing that he had just driven through Millville late the afternoon before. "I haven't seen a paper this morning, I was in such a hurry to see about the car."

"Pretty bad business, I guess," continued the mechanic. "They took the bank for three thousand and had to kill a bank guard doing it. Seems there were two men, they rushed out of the bank, jumped in a car and drove off before anyone could catch the license number or even their descriptions."

"That's pretty tough," answered Crimebuster. "I hope they catch up with them."

Crimebuster, now without a car, hopped the earliest train back home. The trip was short and when he finally arrived in town he was very grad to be home. Still carrying the suitcase, he again wondered about it. "Well," he thought, "there's plenty of identification in mine, so I'm sure to hear if I've got the wrong one."

Crimebuster didn't have to wait long to hear. The next day in the mail came a type-written letter which said only, "Sending your suitcase' collect via Express. Return mine same way to W. Hartley, Astoria." With relief Crimebuster took the suitcase down to the Express Office, sent it on its way, tore up the letter and threw it away. The next day Crimebuster's identical suitcase arrived collect from Astoria. Gratefully he unpacked, tore off the tags and stowed the case away.

The next morning as Crimebuster walked into Loover's office he found Loover pacing the floor. Loover looked more distressed than Crimebuster had ever seen him.

"What's the trouble, Loover?" asked Crimebuster.

"Trouble is right, C. B.!" answered the harassed Loover. "C. B., do you have a tan suitcase, about medium-size?"

"Yes," answered Crimebuster curiously. "Why? What is this? What's going on?"

"I just learned, C. B. So here's the story," answered Loover still pacing the floor. "There was a bank robbery in Millville and a bank guard was killed just the day you were there."

"I heard about it," said Crimebuster. "Go on."

"Two men escaped," continued Loover, "carrying a suitcase answering the description of the one you carried. Now it appears you were spotted arriving in Holcomb carrying a suitcase like that, registered at the hotel, and left early the next morning. You abandoned your car but the mechanic at the garage gave your description, also that of the suitcase you were carrying. All things point to the fact that you were trying to cover up your tracks!"

"But," gasped Crimebuster, "it isn't true! I mean, I didn't rob a bank. It's very true about the suitcase and all the rest of the story but that's just coincidence."

"But what about the suitcase?" queried Loover.

"It's home, empty, in the closet. But, listen Loover," continued Crimebuster, "there's more to this." Crimebuster told Loover how the car had broken down, how he had hitch-hiked, then discovered he had the wrong suitcase, about the typewritten letter and the exchange of suitcases through the Express Company.

"Where's the letter you received, C. B.?" asked Loover, anxious to grasp a thread of evidence.

"I tore it up and threw it away somewhere downtown after I shipped the case," groaned Crimebuster.

"Oh, C. B. That could have been the best evidence for you," sighed Loover. "Where are the tags from your returned suitcase?"

"Same thing," said Crimebuster, disgusted at his innocent lack of foresight.

Loover, with complete faith in Crimebuster's story, was assured that he and Crimebuster would somehow turn up with the real crooks. The two left Loover's office and went to the Express Office. The record of the arrival of Crimebuster's suitcase was there and also the record of Crimebuster's shipment of the other suitcase. They realized now that all they could do was to try and beat the Express Company and get to Astoria before the suitcase arrived. They climbed in Loover's car and raced the four hundred miles to Astoria with the siren screaming all the way. Parking the car a few blocks from the Express Office, Loover walked to the office. He learned quickly from the clerk that the suitcase had arrived but no one had been in to pick it up. Realizing this was a waiting game, Crimebuster and Loover camped in the Express Office for a full day, keeping well behind the scenes.

Early the next morning, just at opening time, a squat, broad shouldered man walked into the office. "Is there a collect parcel for Hartley?" he asked the clerk.

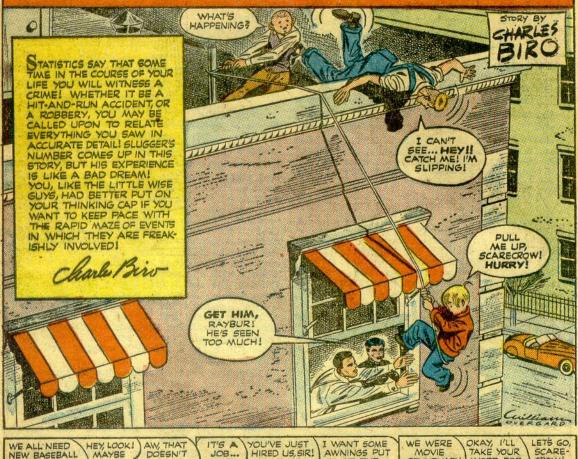
"I'll check, sir," the clerk agreeably answered as he turned his back and gave Loover the high sign.

Loover and Crimebuster pounced from behind scenes and caught the man before he had a chance to escape. Crimebuster immediately recognized the man as Checkers, the man who had picked him up the night his car broke down.

Previously having warned the Astoria police, two men had been outside and were now covering the car from which Checkers, alias Hartley, had just got out. In the driver's seat Crimebuster immediately recognized the man as Gus. Opening the suitcase revealed the \$3,000 in cash that had been stolen from the Millville Bank.

Gus and Checkers were found guilty of robbery and murder while Crimebuster mused how easily and unsuspectingly he had almost fallen into jail. He never got over feeling a little foolish about walking around for twenty-four hours with a suitcase loaded with three thousand hot dollars that he didn't even know he had.

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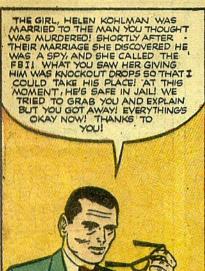








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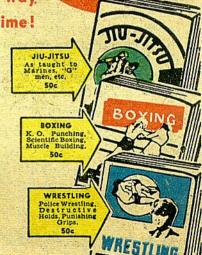
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